

July 9, 2007

Roy P. Pilkey
49 Bell Lane
Hamilton, Mt 59840
406 363 5495

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman
205 Bedford, Ste G
Hamilton, Mt 59840

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Sheriff Hoffman,

I am writing in regards to a message I left on your phone yesterday as I know that you are very busy with the Fire Situation. I would ask of your urgent interest in the following regards.

I was one of the people who testified at the June 19, 2007 Hamilton City Council meeting in regards to concerns of the Hamilton Police dept, and I believe you might have been in attendance at that meeting. Many of the complaints were past and present concerns of different citizens. My concern was an opinion and I did not have a complaint at that time.

Since, the mayor of Hamilton has squashed any hope of the city council proceeding with an investigation of our complaints. Concerned people have since formed a citizens group to find an avenue to complain and be heard by various government agencies since the city had no safe complaint process.

Most of the people who spoke at that meeting believe that they have been targeted, further harassed, and are being watched by the HPD either directly or covertly. This is backed up by a memo sent to the city council from the City Attorney clearly pointing out that the persons testifying have been listed and further investigated. Letters are currently being sent to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, and the Montana Bar Assn in regards to these allegations. We have a letter on file with the County attorney and the County Commissioner s in regard to our fears and our urgent need for some kind of relief from this out of control situation..

Since I did not have a complaint directly against the HPD, I was working as a concerned citizen to try and make things better. One of the Plaintiffs lives in Victor, and he alleged to me that an HPD patrol car had driven on to his property at around 10:30 pm, drove up the entire length of his driveway and had then exited without making any contact with the occupant. Since he was deeply embroiled with a very serious case regarding the procedures of his wife's case, and that his Attorney had been pulled over by the HPD and that the Attorney had forced a Per Se plea in the case and then had dropped them as clients, he believed the patrol car being on his property was entirely out of line. He advised me that he had contacted your office regarding the complaint.

I spoke again at the City Council meeting two days ago, 8/7/07, and after the meeting came home at about 10:00 pm. When I was about to go to bed, I let my dog out into my yard at about 10:40/ After several minutes she began barking and I immediately opened the front door to see what she was barking at.

I could see a large sedan parked just beyond my privacy fence with its lights on and engine running. It sat there for approx 1 minute, and then proceeded east slowly, stopping at the first residence on the north side of the road past my house. A spotlight was then used to light up that area and the sedan then pulled into their drive way. The car then backed up onto bell lane and came back past my house. The car was a Marked Hamilton police car. I was standing in the front of my driveway as he drove past my house.

I then called 911 and asked the dispatcher if there was any reason that an HPD car would be operating in the County and she said no, there was nothing going on there. I asked her to note my call, and she said she would do that. I now believe I have a complaint against the City of Hamilton.

I called your office and left a message on your phone mail, I know that you are busy. I also called and left a message on Chief Oster's phone, I have not received a reply.

I believe that the HPD, or one or more of it's officers is out of control and unless something is done this is going to lead to very serious consequences. Someone is running a fear campaign to try and keep our complaints from being heard and have the HPD investigated.

I would ask you to investigate this and give me assurance that I would be safe in the county from these rogue officers. What are the boundaries of the HPD jurisdiction?? They appear to run any where they want to go in the county and write citations well out of the city limits on a very regular basis.

In regards to our citizens group, can we direct people to you for review of our complaints as you are the top ranking law officer in the county? What are your powers in this regard?

I know that this is a complicated matter, but I do not take lightly Hamilton Police following me to my home in the county to intimidate me.

Please give this matter your most urgent concern, as there are many other citizen's with this same problem.

Most Sincerely,

CC: County Attny George Corn.
Ravalli County Commissioners